

REMARKS

Claims 13-17, which are slightly broader than claims 8-12, have been added to provide more comprehensive protection for Applicant's invention.

As a supplement to Applicant's earlier remarks in the Amendment dated September 13, 2004, submitted herewith are definitions of the term "interference fit" from two technical dictionaries, the Chambers Science and Technology Dictionary (W & R Chambers Ltd. and Cambridge University Press, 1988) and the ASM Materials Engineering Dictionary (ASM International, 1992).

It is abundantly clear from the attached definitions that a mere abutment of components, as shown in the Kayser and Mangiavacchi patents, cannot properly be regarded as an interference fit. Accordingly, as was explained in the September 13, 2004 Amendment, the rejections of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are unfounded and should be withdrawn.

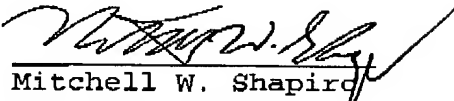
This application is clearly in condition for allowance and should now be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this

paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

9/24/04
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